NAACP Missouri State Conference
Environmental Justice Committee Report
Prepared for the September 25-26, 2020 Annual Meeting

Committee Members
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**Actions - September 2019 through September 2020**

In keeping with National’s directive that Environmental and Climate Justice (ECJ) Committees prioritize climate justice work, much of the Committee’s activities have focused upon this aspect of National’s environmental justice program.

**Climate Justice**

In collaboration with the St. Louis City branch, we served as a member of the Advisory Committee for the City of St. Louis 100% clean energy plan. The committee released its recommended plan to the City of St. Louis, Board of Aldermen in November, 2019.

In January 2020, we assisted the St. Louis County branch in opposing Ameren Missouri’s request to increase its Residential customer charge. The proposed increase would force disproportionately higher costs onto people who use the least electricity and can least afford higher bills, and also would remove incentives to conserve energy.

In February 2020, we facilitated National’s Coal-Blooded Training event for the St. Louis City and St. Louis County branches. The focus of the training was to educate NAACP members about the negative health impacts from coal fired energy production and to launch an energy efficiency project in Saint Louis County.

In April 2020, we participated as a stakeholder in Evergy’s Integrated Resource Planning process to advocate for its transition away from coal fired energy production.
We began participating as a stakeholder in Ameren Missouri’s Integrated Resource Planning process in advance of its upcoming filing of a triennial long-range (20-year) plan by Oct. 1. We continue to press the company to advance clean energy in low income communities of color.

**Lead in Drinking Water**

We have been assisting the St. Louis City branch in its investigation of elevated concentrations of lead in the drinking water at the City of St. Louis Juvenile Detention Center.

**General**

In March 2020, we submitted written opposition to the Trump Administration proposal to rescind many vital protections of the National Environmental Policy Act, including the requirement that federal agencies examine the cumulative and indirect effects of their actions, which include environmental justice concerns.

In April 2020, we were invited (virtually) to educate residents of the Dutchtown, Marine Villa, Gravois Park and Mt. Pleasant neighborhoods about environmental justice. The community members have joined us as advocates as we press the Missouri Department of Natural Resources to meaningfully engage these communities before issuing permits to pollution sources.

In September 2020 we joined with the St. Louis City branch in filing a civil rights complaint with USEPA over the ongoing failure of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources to engage low income minority communities before issuing permits to pollution sources in their communities.

**Additional report from Vannessa Frazier - Living with COVID**

As an Environmental Justice Health Educator, and Partner with National Partnership of Environmental Training Education (National PETE), we are on a continuous cycle of Refresher Zoom meetings. Updates are provided on the efforts (or lack thereof) from CDC and HHS.

COVID-19 has taken center stage in our lives. As I have mentioned in several facebook posts, MISSOURI is the ONLY State in the Nation that is surrounded by 8 States. On September 15, we joined other States that are
designated as Dark Red or Hot Zone. When this designation is given, the State is under complete saturation for COVID transmission. COVID-19 is a wet-airborne virus, as it is called. Information on protection is not properly reaching all people, and others, in vain, or not taking it seriously.

Health hazards are within Environmental Justice and they disproportionately impact minority communities, COVID-19 does the same. Pemiscot county shut down its high school last Wednesday. New Madrid County is shutting down its school. We are ticking up quickly, with illnesses and death rates. One RN infected 3 communities, in New Madrid County, as identified through contract tracing.

Minorities with underlying health conditions are really taking a pounding in rural communities. Harvest time is here; contaminants, mixed with Environmental toxins and COVID-19, is a triple threat.

Education, Sanitation and proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) throughout this state is critical, especially in minority communities.

Tip of the week: Alcohol, is very hard to find, but is now considered a staple. You will find 60-62% volume by weight, it is useless, and price gouging is off the chain. You need 75%, no less than 70% for Alcohol to be effective. If all else fails, The Liquor Store sells EVERCLEAR, it is 95% Alcohol and 190% proof. It is not very expensive, but it will be as word get around.